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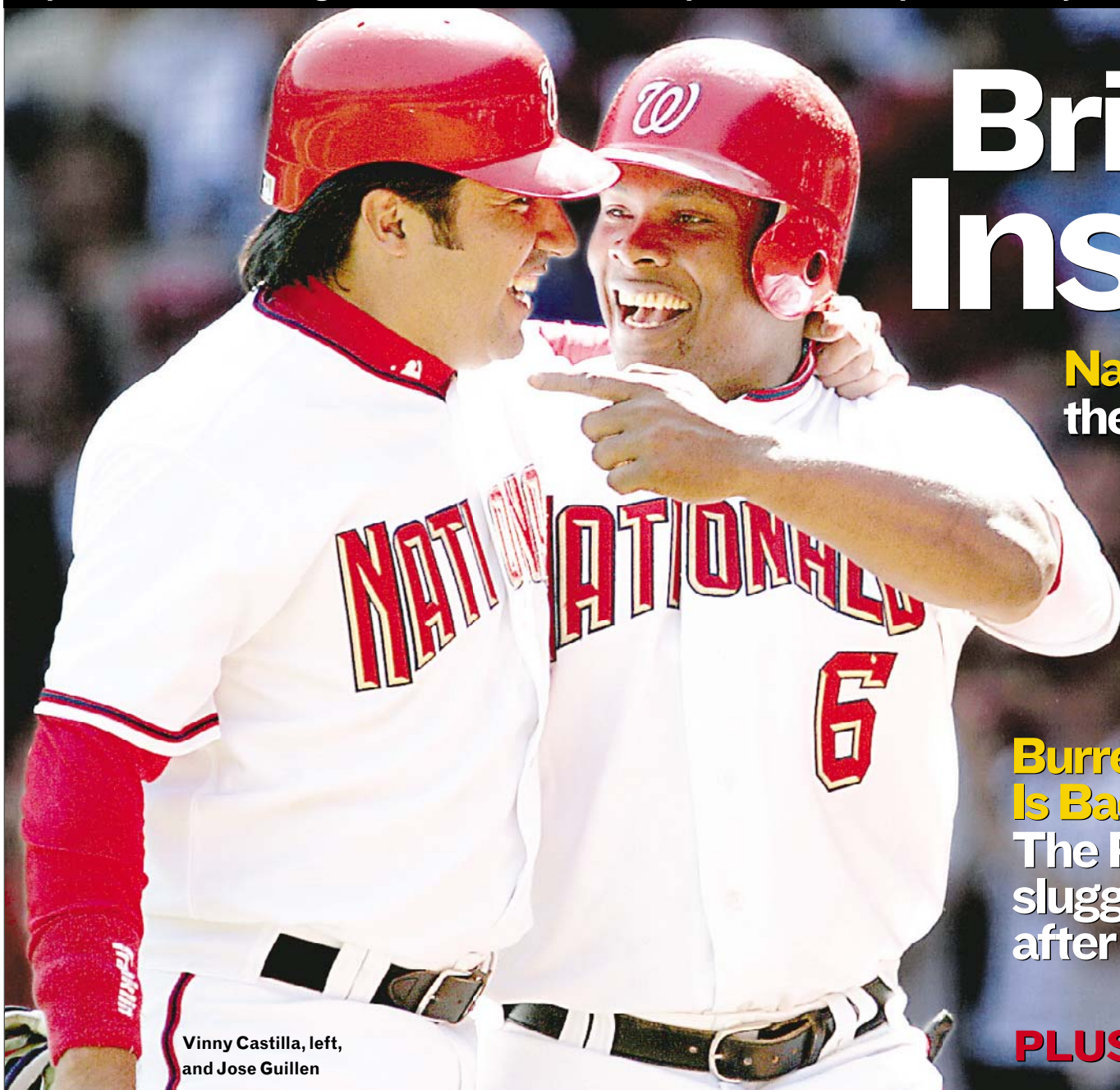
WASHINGTON'S UNOFFICIAL GAME GUIDE

>> **FREE** <<
express

A publication of *The Washington Post*

APRIL 25 - MAY 1, 2005

April 25-27 | Washington Nationals vs. Philadelphia Phillies April 29 - May 1 | vs. New York Mets



Vinny Castilla, left,
and Jose Guillen

Bring the Insanity

Nats are banking on
their bullpen bulldog | 4

**Burrell
Is Back:**

The Phillies
slugger is hitting hard
after a couple off years | 7



PLUS: SCORECARD | 8

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(off the) Field*

* 5 Minutes with: Chad Cordero

CLOSER CHAD CORDERO earned the first save in Washington Nationals history on April 12 when he came in to seal the team's 4-3 win over the Atlanta Braves. In 88 big-league games spanning three seasons, Cordero has inherited 23 base runners and stranded them all.

How'd you get your nickname — Chief?
It was my freshman year of college. First week at practice, one of my teammates all of a sudden called me Chief. And it stuck. All of a sudden, my coaches, my teammates, the fans, all started calling me Chief.

You majored in kinesiology. Why?
A lot of the guys on my team in college were studying it. It's interesting. But now, if I ever get hurt, I know

exactly what they're talking about. It helps in that respect.

What's the most important quality of a closer?
You want them to think you're nuts. I guess that's the most important one. And you have to be able to forget.

What job would you have no desire to do for a living?
Probably an accountant. It's boring for me.

Who was your hero when you were a kid?
My dad and my grandpa. Really both of them. They were always there. They went to every one of



EVAN VUCCIA/AP

“First week at practice, one of my teammates all of a sudden called me Chief.”

my games when I was growing up. They are really the ones that got me into baseball.

You're kind of like a superhero — you come in and save the day. What does that feel like?
I like it. It's fun. Especially when you're walking in and you hear all those people cheering for you at home. Oh, I enjoy it.

What does it feel like to give up a walk-off home run?
You definitely feel bad. You let your starting pitcher down. You let your team down. They count on you to close out that game. It's a tough feeling, but I have a short memory, so I get over it pretty quick. GARY KARTON

W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	SVO	IP	H	R	ER	HR	HBP	BB	SO
10	4	2.61	90	0	0	0	18	24	103.1	83	33	30	10	1	48	105

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Washington Nationals | ACTIVE ROSTER



18 Terrmel Sledge

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.294	1	7	.409



7 Brad Wilkerson

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.323	1	6	.380



6 Jose Guillen

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.323	5	9	.348



15 Cristian Guzman

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.140	0	2	.356



3 Jose Vidro

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.322	4	14	.373



9 Vinny Castilla

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.375	3	11	.434



24 Nick Johnson

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.296	0	6	.415

BENCH	BA	HR	RBI	OBP
77 Carlos Baerga, INF	.111	0	0	.111
29 Gary Bennett, C	.143	0	0	.250
28 Tony Blanco, UTIL	.167	0	0	.167
2 Jamey Carroll, OF	.308	0	0	.308
19 Ryan Church, OF	.152	1	3	.222
26 J.J. Davis, OF	.222	0	1	.263



23 Brian Schneider

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.229	1	5	.296

OUTSIDE THE LINES

The Nationals continue to tweak their lineup as the season progresses:

- Catchers **Gary Bennett** and **Brian Schneider** have committed four of the team's eight errors.
- Outfielder **Terrmel Sledge** is now starting in left field while **Ryan Church** is coming off the bench.
- As a team the Nationals are 6 of 9 in stolen base attempts. **Sledge** leads the team with two stolen bases.



← **Manager** Frank Robinson
1B Coach Don Buford
Hitting Coach Tom McCraw

Bench Coach Eddie Rodriguez
Pitching Coach Randy St. Claire
3B Coach Dave Huppert

Starting Pitchers

Livan Hernandez | 61

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-2	5.76	13	1.40



Esteban Loaiza | 21

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	4.58	14	1.27

Zach Day | 54

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-1	5.09	5	1.42

Tomo Ohka | 34

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-2	4.76	6	1.59

22 John Patterson

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-1	0.86	17	.76

The Bullpen

Chad Cordero | 32

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-1	0.93	10	1.34



Joey Eischen | 58

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	3.18	4	1.06

Luis Ayala | 56

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	3.48	7	1.06

59 Joe Horgan

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	18.69	2	3.46

38 Gary Majewski

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	2	1.00

48 Hector Carrasco

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	0	0.00

(Nats Notes)

Prior to last Monday's game against the Florida Marlins, outfielder Terrmel Sledge was awarded a silver cup as a member of last season's Topps All-Rookie Team. In 2004 Sledge hit .269 for the Expos >>

Patience Pays for Terrmel Sledge

...including a team-high .337 with runners in scoring position.

Although Sledge has played well in limited action, Manager **Frank Robinson** has had a difficult time finding innings for the left-hander. Fellow outfielders **Jose Guillen** and **Brad Wilkerson** never want a day off, and when starting center-fielder **Ryan Church**, also a lefty, comes out against tough left-handed pitchers, the right-handed **J.J. Davis** usually gets the start.

Despite being in a "very difficult situation," as Robinson put it, Sledge has stayed patient and produced off the bench with 7 RBI and four walks.

At first Robinson said he might try to get Sledge a few more at-bats by moving Wilkerson



to first base and giving **Nick Johnson** a day off every once in a while. But now, with Church hitting just .156 with three RBI, Wilkerson is moving to center field and Sledge is getting his chance to be the

everyday starter in left field.

"Sledge will probably play every day ... and show me what he can do. If he plays well and hits, then he'll stay in there. We need all the offense we can get right now. So if he comes in and gives us a spark, then he's in there. And it's not a day-to-day thing. He's going to get a legitimate shot, some ball games under his belt, before any decisions are made to either go with him or switch back." ...

Breaking **Mike Hampton**'s streak of five consecutive Silver Slugger Awards, pitcher **Livan Hernandez** was officially presented with the award on Monday for being the best hitting pitcher in the National League last year. In 2004, Hernandez hit .247 with seven doubles, one home run and 10 RBI. GARY KARTON

"If [Sledge] comes in and gives us a spark, then he's in there."

JONATHAN NEWTON/TWP



Eischen, (The lefty reliever exudes intensity — and that’s just what his teammates want) The Bulldog

SITTING ON A FOLDING CHAIR in the clubhouse an hour before game time, Nationals left-handed reliever Joey Eischen speaks softly and thoughtfully. If you ask him a question, he gives you the truth, not what he thinks you want to hear. And he answers every one. He talks about growing up without a father, how, as a kid, he spray-painted his Shetland Terrier blue, and about his mom, who was always there for him.

Then he tells the story of the city championship game. The moment when he first knew he had the gift to pitch. He was 14. He struck out 16 of 18 batters. He looks up and in that same soft, honest tone describes how he “plunked” the biggest guy on the opposing team in the head ... twice.

“The first one was by accident,” he says. “The second one might have been on purpose.” Then he winks. And, in that wink, you understand what everyone is talking about.

“Joey Eischen doesn’t bring intensity,”

said Manager Frank Robinson, “He brings insanity. He comes to the ballpark and he gives it all he’s got. That’s what you’re looking for in player.”

“He’s your typical old-school baseball player,” said Brad Wilkerson. “He goes out there and fights.”

HIS ABILITY TO FIGHT has allowed Eischen to persevere through a 16-year career in which the better part of 11 of them were spent in the minors. He’s been injured, traded, released, brought up to the majors and sent back down to the minors — one time right before the playoffs. Another time, a pitching coach for a new team tried to persuade him to abandon his curve ball and start throwing a slider. As always, Eischen was brutally honest about

his thoughts on the experiment.

“Needless to say, that put me right in his doghouse,” Eischen recalls. “But I believe in myself. I believe in my ability. I knew if I stayed on my path and my course, I’d be OK.”

He’s been better than OK this year for the Nationals. As a reliable middle reliever who earned the team’s first win of the season, Eischen is the emotional leader of the bullpen.

“He’s a bulldog,” said closer Chad Cordero. “All the guys in the bullpen feed off of that. He gets you all fired up. We go out there and try to do what he does.”

EISCHEN CREDITS HIS MOM, Kathy, for his toughness and resolve. As a child, Eischen was “very hyper,” which made it tough to sit still in class. He spent much of his first two

years of school outside the principal’s office. So Kathy kept him active and involved in sports. Eischen excelled in football, basketball and tennis, as well as baseball.

“She never, never, never missed anything of mine until I signed as a pro,” he says. “My mom’s my best friend. I didn’t have a dad. I didn’t have a brother my age. She stayed on me. Kept me straight.”

Kathy videotaped every game her son pitched. After the games, they’d go home, pop the tape in the VCR and critique his performance. She’d tell him stories about her favorite tough-guy pitchers, Bob Gibson, Nolan Ryan and Don Drysdale.

AFTER THIS SEASON, Eischen looks forward to heading home to his wife and two children in Tampa, where he coaches at the local high school.

But today, sitting in his chair, waiting for the start of another battle, he’s as intense and focused on winning as he was when he was 4, playing tackle football with his brother’s teenage friends.

“When I’m out there it’s a fight,” he says. “If you’re afraid to get hit in the mouth and taste your own blood, then you shouldn’t be in the room with me.”

You wait for a wink but it never comes.

GARY KARTON

YR	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	R	ER	SO	SV	BB	HBP
'03	2	2	3.06	70	53	57	27	18	40	1	13	3
'04	0	1	3.93	21	300	18.1	10	8	17	0	8	1
'05	1	0	3.18	9	300	5.2	2	2	4	0	1	1

How Washington Got the Bird

SINCE SCREECH EMERGED FROM his shell, there's been a lot of speculation about where the Nationals' new mascot came from.

Thorough investigation and a battery of DNA tests have shed light on the portly eagle's origins:

One day in late February, Youppi, the rejected, unemployed former Montreal Expos mascot, was idly wondering about Washington.

It wasn't long before Youppi ambled past the MCI Center — where he noticed another down-and-out mascot dancing on the corner as passersby tossed change into a hockey helmet. It was Slapshot, the Capitals' lonely eagle.

The two mascots struck up conversation and traded sob stories. Slapshot — who, it turns out, had hidden her true gender for years — was smitten by Youppi's French accent.

That night they snuck up to the arena rafters together.

Youppi disappeared after the tryst to look

SHELL SHOCKER OR NOT?
Reaction has been mixed since Screech hatched on April 17.

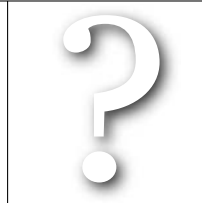
We want to know what you think. Should this bird fly the coop, or is he a warm and fuzzy face to look forward to it at RFK? If not Screech, what would you want to represent D.C.'s baseball team? E-mail inbox@readexpress.com and we'll share the best answers in the next HomeStand.

for minor-league work, and Slapshot soon laid an enormous egg.

As Nationals fever swept the city and the season got under way, the excited egg first sprouted legs, then broke open.

Screech was born April 17, with his father's unwavering love of the franchise (and genetic predisposition for tubbiness) and his mother's limitless enthusiasm for Washington sports. CHRIS MINCHER



 IN JUDGING how Screech lives up to mascot standards, it's only fair to compare him to the competition.					
	SCREECH	MR. MET	PHANATIC	SCREECH	ADVANTAGE
PERSONALITY	Predatory (?)	Post-lobotomy	Over-medicated	Lovable loser	MR. MET
FEARED BY	Fish, small animals	No one	Everyone	Lisa Turtle	SCREECH (BIRD)
DANCE	Beak-bob	Belly dance	Please don't	"The Sprain"	SCREECH (GUY)
ORIGIN	North America	Cow hide	Planet Zorbax Q20	Planet Zorbax Q2I	PHANATIC
SPECIES	Leucocephalus	Homobaseballis	?	Nerd	SCREECH (GUY)



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Philadelphia Phillies | ACTIVE ROSTER



5 Pat Burrell

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.333	5	20	.411



7 Kenny Lofton

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.389	1	4	.450



53 Bobby Abreu

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.281	1	6	.370



11 Jimmy Rollins

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.294	2	5	.351



26 Chase Utley

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.286	2	7	.300



4 David Bell

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.211	1	6	.286



25 Jim Thome

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.232	1	9	.371

BENCH

	BA	HR	RBI	OBP
22 J. Michaels , OF	.391	0	3	.516
33 Jose Offerman , INF	.222	0	0	.364
9 Thomas Perez , UTIL	.300	0	2	.364
27 Placido Polanco , INF	.237	0	3	.356
3 Todd Pratt , C	.167	1	2	.231



24 Mike Leibertal

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.244	1	2	.320

OUTSIDE THE LINES

Slugger Pat Burrell leads a potent Phillies offense that hits well on the road:

- Phillies pitchers have given up the second most hits (153) of any NL team this season.
- Outfielder **Pat Burrell** leads the league in RBIs with 20.
- The Phillies have the third best road batting average (.284) in the NL.



← **Manager** Charlie Manuel
1B Coach Marc Bombard
Hitting Coach Milt Thompson

Bench Coach Garv Varsho
Pitching Coach Rick Dubee
3B Coach Bill Dancy

Starting Pitchers

21 Jon Lieber

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
4-0	2.73	9	1.08



Randy Wolf | **43**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-1	4.95	16	1.35

Cory Lidle | **30**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-2	3.86	5	1.53

Brett Myers | **39**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	0.44	20	.79

Gavin Floyd | **34**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-1	11.48	4	1.65

The Bullpen

13 Billy Wagner

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	8	0.71



38 Tim Worrell

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	9.00	6	1.50

37 Rheel Cormier

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-1	9.00	2	2.75

63 Ryan Madson

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-1	7.71	6	1.71

Terry Adams | **51**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	4.76	2	1.76

Aaron Fultz | **46**

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	3.00	5	1.50

Team Leaders

→ BAT AVG.

J. Michaels, .391
K. Lofton, .389
P. Burrell, .333
T. Perez, .300
J. Rollins, .294

→ ERA

B. Wagner, 0.00
B. Myers, 0.44
J. Lieber, 2.73
A. Fultz, 3.00
C. Liddle, 3.86

→ HITS

P. Burrell, 20
J. Rollins, 20
B. Abreu, 18
K. Lofton, 14
J. Thome, 13

→ STRIKEOUTS

B. Myers, 20
R. Wolf, 16
J. Lieber, 9
B. Wagner, 8
R. Madson, 6

→ RBI

P. Burrell, 20
J. Thome, 13
C. Utley, 7
B. Abreu, 6
D. Bell, 6

→ WINS

J. Lieber, 4
G. Floyd, 1
R. Madson, 1
B. Myers, 1
R. Wolf, 1

(Keys to the Series) Lead Early — Or Good Luck



Lieber (above), Wolf, Lidle and Myers makes up for Philly's lack of a true ace.

THERE'S NO SECRET to beating the Philadelphia Phillies so far this season: Get ahead early.

When their opponent scores first, the Phillies are 3-5. And when trailing after six innings, forget it. Philadelphia is 0-4.

While that strategy is sound, there's a catch.

The Phillies' pitchers are throwing well and the Nationals are still struggling at the plate.

Despite allowing a franchise record seven home runs in a game to the New York Mets recently, the Philadelphia starters are off to an excellent start to the season, allowing three earned runs or fewer in 11 of the Phillies' first 14 games this season.

While Philadelphia doesn't have an established ace like the Mets' Pedro Martinez, the combination of Jon Lieber (4-0, 2.73 ERA), Randy Wolf (1-1, 4.95

ERA), Cory Lidle (0-1, 2.61 ERA) and Brett Myers (1-0, 0.44) have a combined ERA of just under 4 and have allowed just 16 walks, the lowest number in the National League.

"All of these teams have good ball clubs," said Nationals hitting coach Tom McCraw.

"It comes down to execution," he said. "If there's an opportunity to get the bunt down, you gotta get it down. If there's a situation to move the runner up from second to third base you can't mess it up. 'Cause you're going to need every run you can get against those guys.

"If we execute the basic offensive fundamentals, it doesn't matter who we're playing. We're going to be fine. We're going to be right there in the ball game." GARY KARTON

(Phillies slugger rebounds
after disappointing years)

Burrell Is Back

IN THE FIRST GAME of the season, the Washington Nationals got a first-hand look at what the Philadelphia Phillies have been hoping to see for the past two years. Heading into the season as one of Philadelphia's biggest question marks, left fielder Pat Burrell went 3 for 3 with two runs, two RBI and a walk in the opener against the Nationals, and he hasn't slowed down since.

Through the first 14 games of the season, Burrell led the National League with 19 RBI and was tied for the lead in home runs with five. He had seven more RBI than the combined total of Philadelphia's other top slugers, Bobby Abreu and Jim Thome.

"He has really picked us up offensively during a time when we have not gotten all our offensive guns firing here early in the season," said assistant GM Ruben Amaro Jr.

Just three seasons ago, such early numbers wouldn't have seemed out of the ordinary for Burrell. After hitting .442 in three years at the University of Miami, Burrell was the first overall pick in the June 1998 draft. He spent a little more than two seasons in the minors, earning the Paul Owens Award as the Phillies' top minor league player in 1999.

A year later, he finished fourth in the rookie-of-the-year balloting after leading NL rookies in home runs, extra base hits, RBI and doubles, despite playing only 111 games.

He then set career highs in every offensive category except stolen bases in 2002. He finished the campaign with 37 home runs and 116 RBI and signed a six-year, \$50-mil-



AL BEHRMAN/AP

little better and adjusting to him," Amaro said. "He wasn't adjusting back to the pitchers. The other thing is he had a pretty large contract to justify."

But Burrell is "far too talented and dedicated" to give up on, Amaro said. So they worked with him on having a consistent approach at the plate, not worrying so much about home runs and hitting the ball up the opposite way.

Burrell showed signs of improvement last year, hitting .328 with nine homers and 36 RBIs through the first two months of the season. But he struggled with injuries after the All-Star break, and hit just .226 after May 20.

"If he's hot, you're going to have a tough time."

lion contract extension. He then promptly stopped producing.

In 2003, his batting average dropped 73 points, he hit 16 fewer home runs and drove in only a little more than half as many runs.

"The pitchers were getting to know him a

"It was tough," said Burrell. "Last year wasn't as bad. But the year before that was really tough." This year, he said, he's "just trying to stay consistent with my approach and not try to do too much."

So far, it appears to be working.

"Pat's one of those guys where if he's hot, you're going to have a tough time," said Nationals catcher Brian Schneider. "He's going to hit the ball to all fields. Last time we saw him, that's exactly what he was doing. Hopefully he cools down a little before he comes into town." GARY KARTON

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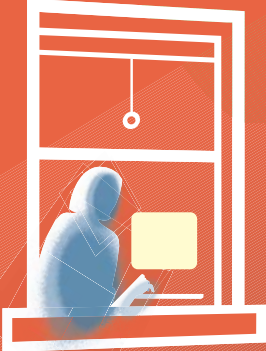


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Team:			vs															
Date:			Start Time:					End Time:					Time of Game:					
Scorer:																		
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S	Runs												T O T A L S					
U	Hits												AB:		RBI:			
M	Errors												R:		E:			
S	Left on Base												H:		LOB:			
Pitcher		W-L	IP	H	P	ER	BB	SO	HB	BK	WP	TBF	Catcher					PB



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		Team: <i>Washington Nationals</i> vs															
		Date:				Start Time:				End Time:				Time of Game:			
		Scorer:															
#	Player	Pos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	AB	R	H	RBI	E
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	sub		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇					
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	sub		◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇					
S	Runs												T O T A L S				
U	Hits												AB:		RBI:		
M	Errors												R:		E:		
S	Left on Base												H:		LOB:		
Pitcher		W-L	IP	H	P	ER	BB	SO	HB	BK	WP	TBF	Catcher				PB

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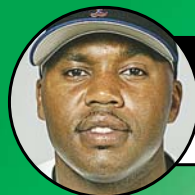


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New York Mets | ACTIVE ROSTER



30 Cliff Floyd

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.333	3	10	.395



15 Carlos Beltran

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.286	3	11	.343



20 Victor Diaz

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.325	3	7	.460



7 Jose Reyes

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.278	3	9	.278



25 Kaz Matsui

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.283	1	7	.250



5 David Wright

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.220	3	7	.283



16 D. Mientkiewicz

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.278	3	10	.365

BENCH

	BA	HR	RBI	OBP
18 M. Anderson, INF	.375	0	1	.444
11 Miguel Cairo, INF	.313	0	1	.389
3 Ramon Castro, C	.294	0	2	.278
57 Eric Valent, OF	.238	0	0	.111
4 C. Woodward, UTIL	.333	0	0	.375



31 Mike Piazza

BA	HR	RBI	OBP
.234	3	6	.308

OUTSIDE THE LINES

With a hole in their starting rotation, the Mets have had to rely on the long ball.

- As a team, the **Mets** are second in the National League in home runs with 19.
- Starting pitcher **Kris Benson** is on the disabled list with a torn pectoral muscle.
- With two home runs, catcher **Mike Piazza** will pass 47th ranked Albert Belle on the all-time home run list with 382.



← **Manager** Willie Randolph
1B Coach Jerry Manuel
Hitting Coach Rick Down

Bench Coach Sandy Alomar Sr.
Pitching Coach Rick Peterson
3B Coach Manny Acta

Starting Pitchers

45 Pedro Martinez

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
2-0	2.17	38	.52



47 Tom Glavine

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-2	5.17	9	1.85

Kaz Ishii | 23

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-2	4.82	14	1.23

38 Victor Zambrano

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-1	3.71	15	1.94

48 Aaron Heilman

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-2	6.00	13	1.33

The Bullpen

Braden Loper | 40

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-1	6.43	4	1.71



35 Mike DeJean

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	5.68	5	2.05

39 Roberto Hernandez

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	0.00	9	1.00

Manny Aybar | 36

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	5.40	8	1.56

27 Mike Matthews

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
1-0	6.23	2	2.08

Dae-Sung Koo | 17

W-L	ERA	K	WHIP
0-0	0.00	5	1.25

Team Leaders

→ BAT AVG.

Anderson, .400
V. Diaz, .342
R. Castro, .333
C. Floyd, .333
Woodward, .286

→ ERA

H. Bell, .000
F. Heredia, .000
Hernandez, .000
D. Koo, .000
P. Martinez, 2.17

→ HITS

J. Reyes, 18
C. Beltran, 17
Mientkiewicz, 14
V. Diaz, 13
C. Floyd, 13

→ STRIKE OUTS

P. Martinez, 38
V. Zambrano, 15
K. Ishii, 14
A. Heilman, 13
T. Glavine, 9

→ RBI

C. Beltran, 11
C. Floyd, 11
Mientkiewicz, 10
J. Reyes, 9
V. Diaz, 7

→ WINS

P. Martinez, 2
M. DeJean, 1
A. Heilman, 1
R. Hernandez, 1
B. Loper, 1

(Keys to the Series) Get Off the Tight Rope

WHILE THE NASCENT NATIONALS have more than proven they're capable of coming from behind, it's getting ahead early that concerns Manager Frank Robinson.

Of Washington's 64 runs scored through the first 14 games, only 9 percent came in the first three innings.

Even during its five-game winning streak, Washington scored just two of its 36 runs in the first three innings.

Sixty-three percent of its runs have been scored in the seventh inning or later.

"It's great to be able to come back at the end of the game, but I don't want this club to start depending on it," Robinson said.

"It's really like walking a tight rope if you're going

to depend on scoring runs from the seventh inning on. That's not going to work too often. You've got to put some runs on the board early."

It seems as if the Mets' visit to the nation's capital couldn't have come at a better time for them. Even with ace Pedro Martinez pitching better than he has in years, New York has been out-scored 25-7 in the first three innings through the first part of the season.

But after an early rash of blown chances, New York's bullpen has been exceptional at holding leads. Even with the early deficits, the Mets are out-scoring opponents 77-66.

The Mets' improved play also shows in the team's record. After starting 0-5, New York had rebounded to 8-8 entering last weekend. GARY KARTON

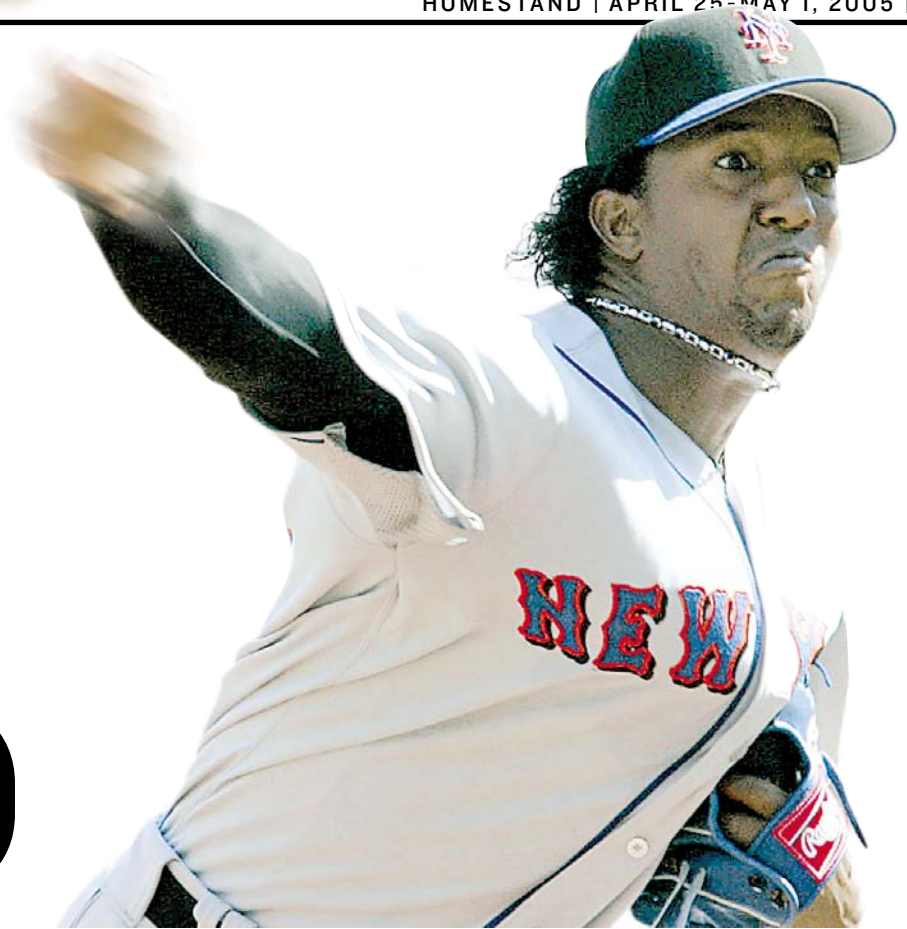


Pedro Martinez looks like his former Expos-self so far in the new season.

JAMES A. FINLEY/AP

(The enigmatic ace leaves Boston for New York — and the Mets couldn't be happier)

Facing Pedro



AL BEHRMAN/AP

THE ONLY THING that has changed about Pedro Martinez is his uniform. In his first season with the New York Mets, Martinez is still the same. He's still a fiery competitor on the field, he's still a jokester off the field, he still wins, and yes, even though he now pitches in the National League where he must bat for himself, he still pitches inside.

"Let me tell you something," said close friend Jose Guillen of the Nationals. "That little man, he's not afraid of no one."

He's not afraid of a change of scenery either. Through his 13-year major league career, the 5-foot-10, 180-pound Martinez has been one of the most dominant pitchers of all-time, regardless of where he's pitched.

He has a career record of 182-76 with an ERA of 2.71. He has won three Cy Young

three-year deal.

So he left for New York, signing a four-year contract for \$56 million.

Although there were initial concerns about Martinez's health — he's been on the disabled list four times in the past six years — in the early going, he's been every bit as dominant for the Mets as he was for Boston and Montreal.

In his first four starts this season, Martinez went 2-0 with a 2.17 ERA, averaging 7.1 innings per start while striking out 38 and walking just four.

"He's just outstanding," said Nationals Hitting Coach Tom McCraw.

"That's why he has

Martinez has been every bit as dominant with the Mets as he was for Boston and Montreal.

Awards, including his first one in 1997 when he went 17-4 with a 1.90 ERA and 13 complete games for the Montreal Expos. He was traded to Boston the following year.

In his seventh and final season with the Red Sox last year, Martinez pitched seven scoreless innings in Game 3 of the World Series and fulfilled his promise of bringing a World Championship to Boston.

BUT MARTINEZ FELT SLIGHTED after the season when Boston offered him only a

Hall of Fame numbers. He can do the unexpected. In any given situation, he can come with four different pitches and be successful. I've gone in and faced Pedro with some great hitters, and he's like a kid in a candy store. He just ate 'em up."

SO HOW CAN National hitters have success against Pedro?

"You have to go with your strength," said McCraw. "You have to get on a pitch that you want to hit — not what he might throw — and sit there and hope you get it. But when he's right, there's not going to be a lot of scoring when he pitches."

Martinez was criticized in Boston, most notably by ace Curt Shilling, for expecting special treatment. On opening day last season, Martinez left the stadium early following a

loss to Baltimore. Manager Terry Francona responded by saying Martinez didn't understand club policy. Martinez had also been known to show up late to the park on days when he wasn't pitching.

But Mets Manager Willie Randolph says the sometimes unpredictable Martinez has had no such problems in New York, that he fits right in with his new team.

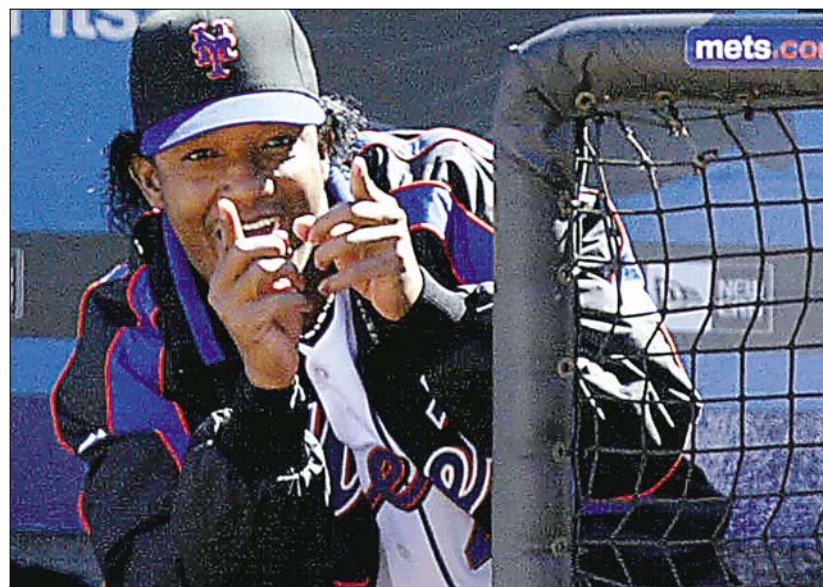
In an April 16 victory over the Marlins, a playful Pedro greeted his teammates as they came in from the field with a garbage can on his head.

Martinez is so committed to winning with the Mets (or so bitter at his old team?) that, unlike fellow former Red Sox teammate Derek Lowe, he didn't go back to Boston for the team's Championship Ring ceremony earlier this month. Instead, he stayed with his team to attend a Welcome Home Dinner and fund raiser.

"Pedro has been a tremendous presence in the clubhouse," said Randolph. "When he's not playing, he's always on the bench rooting for his team. He smiles all the time."

And on the days he pitches?

"No one goes near him," said Randolph, "because he's so focused." GARY KARTON



GREGORY BULL/AP

YR	W	L	ERA	G	IP	H	R	ER	SO	SHO	BB
'03	14	4	2.22	29	186.2	147	52	46	206	0	47
'04	16	9	3.90	33	217	193	99	94	227	1	61
'05	2	9	2.17	4	29	11	7	7	38	0	4

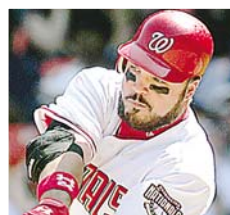
Washington Nationals | HITTING

PLAYER	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	BB	SB	CS	HBP	SLG	AVG
Joey Eischen	9	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1.000	1.000
Tomo Ohka	3	6	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	.786	.393
Vinny Castilla	15	48	10	18	5	1	3	11	34	4	0	0	1	.708	.375
Jose Guillen	16	65	13	21	2	1	5	9	40	2	0	0	1	.615	.323
Brad Wilkerson	16	65	8	21	5	2	1	6	33	6	1	1	0	.508	.323
Jose Vidro	16	59	11	19	5	1	4	14	38	6	0	0	0	.644	.322
Jamey Carroll	6	13	2	4	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	.462	.308
Nick Johnson	16	54	5	16	4	1	0	6	22	10	0	0	1	.407	.296
Terrmel Sledge	12	17	5	5	0	1	1	7	10	4	2	1	0	.588	.294
Esteban Loaiza	3	7	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	.286	.286

ProFile Nick Johnson

AGE:26 BAT:L THROW:L HT:6-3 WT:224 YRS:4

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	96	324	60	92	14	58	5	57	.284	.472
'04	73	251	35	63	7	47	6	58	.251	.398
'05	16	54	5	16	0	6	0	11	.296	.407



Brian Schneider	15	48	6	11	5	0	1	5	19	4	1	0	1	.396	.229
J.J. Davis	8	18	0	4	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	1	0	.222	.222
Zach Day	4	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.200	.200
Tony Blanco	5	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.167	.167
Ryan Church	12	33	6	5	0	0	1	3	8	3	0	0	0	.242	.152
Gary Bennett	3	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	.286	.143
Livan Hernandez	4	7	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	.143	.143
Cristian Guzman	16	57	0	8	2	0	0	2	10	3	1	1	0	.175	.140
Carlos Baerga	8	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	.111	.111
Luis Ayala	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000	.000

ProFile

Christian Guzman

AGE:27 BAT:S THROW:R HT:6-0 WT:195 YRS:6

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	143	534	78	143	3	53	18	79	.268	.365
'04	145	576	84	158	8	46	10	64	.274	.384
'05	16	57	0	8	0	2	1	11	.140	.175

- Led the AL with 20 triples in 2000.
- Has a career batting average of .264.
- His 61 career triples place him third on the Minnesota Twins' all-time list.
- In 2000 Guzman recorded 28 stolen bases for the Minnesota Twins.
- Guzman has a .400 batting average against New York Mets starting pitcher Tom Glavine.



National League | HITTING

PLAYER	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B
Clint Barnes	15	58	14	26	4	0
Edgardo Alfonzo	15	55	13	23	5	0
Derek Lee	16	60	12	25	6	0
Vinny Castilla	15	48	10	18	5	1
Jason Lane	15	62	10	23	8	1
Chipper Jones	16	60	10	22	7	0
Brady Clark	15	60	14	21	2	0
Milton Bradley	15	58	12	20	2	1
Cesar Itzuris	15	67	10	23	2	0
Paul Lo Duca	14	47	5	16	2	0
Chad Tracy	15	53	6	18	4	0
Craig Biggio	15	57	9	19	6	0
Pat Burrell	16	60	8	20	3	0
Jeff Kent	15	57	18	19	7	0
R. Hernandez	15	55	9	18	3	1
Aaron Miles	14	52	7	17	3	1
Damian Miller	11	43	8	14	3	0
Jason Phillips	13	46	4	15	5	0
Victor Diaz	13	40	14	13	3	1
M. Cabrera	16	62	12	20	2	0
Jose Guillen	16	65	13	21	2	1
Matt Holliday	15	62	7	20	1	2
Brad Wilkerson	16	65	8	21	5	2
Carlos Delgado	16	59	9	19	5	0
Jose Vidro	16	59	11	19	5	1
Juan Pierre	16	67	10	21	3	1

ProFile

Derek Lee

AGE:29 BAT:R THROW:R HT:6-5 WT:245 YRS:8

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR
'03	155	539	91	146	31
'04	161	605	90	168	32
'05	16	60	12	25	4

YR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	92	21	131	.271	.508
'04	98	12	128	.278	.356
'05	17	3	8	.417	.717



HR	RBI	TB	SB	CS	SF	HBP	SLG	AVG
4	12	42	2	1	0	3	.724	.448
2	10	34	0	0	1	1	.618	.418
4	17	43	3	0	1	0	.717	.417
3	11	34	0	0	0	1	.708	.375
4	12	45	5	1	1	0	.785	.371
4	10	41	1	0	0	0	.683	.367
3	11	32	2	4	0	3	.633	.350
5	14	39	0	1	1	0	.672	.345
1	8	30	1	0	0	1	.448	.343
1	8	21	1	0	1	1	.446	.340
3	10	31	0	0	1	0	.585	.340
2	8	31	3	0	0	0	.544	.333
4	20	38	0	0	3	2	.633	.333
5	13	38	2	0	0	0	.667	.333
1	7	26	1	0	0	1	.473	.327
0	6	22	1	0	0	0	.423	.327
1	3	20	0	1	0	1	.465	.326
0	9	20	0	0	1	1	.435	.326
3	7	27	2	0	0	0	.675	.325
3	15	31	0	0	2	0	.500	.323
5	9	40	0	0	1	1	.615	.323
0	10	25	2	1	1	0	.403	.323
1	6	33	1	1	0	0	.508	.323
2	8	30	0	1	1	3	.508	.322
4	14	38	0	1	2	0	.644	.322
0	4	26	2	2	1	2	.388	.313

American League | HITTING

PLAYER	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	TB	SB	CS	SF	HBP	SLG	AVG
Jacque Jones	13	42	7	17	3	1	3	11	31	1	1	1	3	.738	.405
Shea Hillenbrand	16	65	16	26	3	1	2	6	38	0	0	0	3	.585	.400
Brian Roberts	15	60	16	24	1	3	6	17	49	6	1	0	0	.817	.400
Ichiro Suzuki	15	60	14	23	2	1	1	4	30	7	1	0	0	.500	.383
Brandon Inge	15	57	13	21	3	2	2	10	34	1	0	0	0	.596	.368
Derek Jeter	15	58	13	21	4	0	1	7	28	2	2	0	2	.483	.362
Ivan Rodriguez	13	56	9	20	6	0	1	7	29	0	1	0	0	.518	.357
Dimitri Young	15	59	14	21	2	2	4	14	39	0	0	1	1	.661	.356
Mark Kotsay	15	62	8	22	4	0	1	8	29	0	1	1	1	.468	.355
V. Guerrero	15	60	12	21	3	0	5	12	39	2	0	0	1	.650	.350
Jason Varitek	12	47	7	16	1	1	4	9	31	0	0	0	0	.660	.340
Luis Matos	15	42	10	14	1	1	1	8	20	3	0	1	2	.476	.333
Miguel Tejada	15	60	12	20	4	1	4	19	38	0	0	1	1	.633	.333
Carlos Guillen	14	54	11	18	3	1	0	4	23	1	0	0	1	.426	.333
Marco Scutaro	14	40	7	13	3	0	1	5	19	0	0	0	0	.475	.325
Hideki Matsui	15	62	10	20	1	0	3	13	33	0	0	0	0	.532	.323
Jorge Cantu	15	62	6	20	4	0	3	10	32	0	1	0	0	.516	.323
Mike Sweeney	15	62	4	20	3	0	2	13	32	1	0	0	1	.500	.323
Javy Lopez	14	53	7	17	5	0	1	7	24	0	0	0	1	.453	.321
Gregg Zaun	14	44	6	14	4	0	2	11	24	0	0	2	0	.545	.318
Eric Hinske	16	54	12	17	2	0	3	13	28	0	0	0	1	.519	.315
Tadahito Iguchi	14	51	6	16	3	0	0	3	19	1	1	2	0	.373	.314
Rondell White	13	48	9	15	2	0	2	9	27	0	0	3	0	.479	.313
Joe Mauer	13	48	6	15	3	0	2	5	24	1	0	0	0	.500	.313
David DeJesus	15	58	9	18	0	1	1	6	26	1	1	0	0	.397	.310
Michael Young	16	68	9	21	2	2	2	12	33	1	0	0	0	.485	.309
Randy Winn	15	52	6	16	3	0	0	2	19	1	3	1	1	.365	.308

ProFile

Mike Sweeney

AGE:31 BAT:R THROW:R HT:6-3 WT:235 YRS:10

YR	G	AB	R	H	HR
'03	108	392	62	115	16
'04	106	411	56	118	22
'05	16	67	5	23	2

YR	RBI	SB	K	AVG	SLG
'03	83	3	56	.293	.467
'04	79	3	44	.287	.504
'05	14	1	11	.343	.507



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Washington Nationals | PITCHING

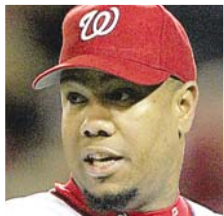
ProFile Luis Ayala

AGE: 27 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-2 WT: 186 YRS: 2

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	10	3	2.92	65	0	71	65	27	23	46
'04	6	12	2.69	81	0	90.1	92	30	27	63
'05	1	0	3.48	10	0	10.1	10	4	4	7



PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HBP	BB	SO
Gary Majewski	0	0	0.00	2	0	0	0	0	3.0	1	0	0	0	2	2
John Patterson	1	1	0.86	3	3	0	0	0	21.0	12	2	2	0	4	17
Chad Cordero	2	1	0.93	9	0	0	0	3	9.2	11	3	1	0	2	10
Joey Eischen	0	1	3.18	9	0	0	0	0	5.2	5	2	2	1	1	4
Louis Ayala	1	0	3.48	10	0	0	0	0	10.1	10	4	4	0	1	7
Esteban Loaiza	0	0	4.58	3	3	0	0	0	19.2	20	10	10	1	5	14
Tomo Ohka	1	2	4.76	3	3	0	0	0	17	15	10	9	0	12	6
Zach Day	1	1	5.09	4	3	0	0	0	17.2	17	10	10	0	8	5
Livan Hernandez	1	2	5.76	4	4	0	0	0	25	24	17	16	0	11	13
Joe Horgan	0	0	18.69	6	0	0	0	0	4.1	12	9	9	1	3	2
Antonio Osuna	0	0	42.43	4	0	0	0	0	2.1	9	11	11	0	7	0



ProFile Livan Hernandez

AGE: 30 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-2 WT: 245 YRS: 9

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	15	10	3.20	33	33	233.1	225	92	83	178
'04	11	15	3.60	35	35	255.0	234	105	102	186
'05	1	2	5.76	4	4	25	24	17	16	13

ProFile

John Patterson

AGE: 27 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-5 WT: 208 YRS: 3

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	1	4	6.06	16	8	55	61	39	37	43
'04	4	7	5.03	19	19	98.1	100	58	55	99
'05	1	1	0.86	3	3	21.0	12	2	2	17



- Was selected by the Expos with the No. 5 overall pick in the 1996 draft.
- Struck out a career-high eight batters three times in 2004.
- Underwent "Tommy John" surgery in May 2000.
- First win in 2002 came in a 10-0 victory for Arizona over San Diego.

National League | PITCHING

PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG
Roger Clemens	1	0	0.43	3	3	0
Brett Myers	1	0	0.44	3	3	0
Mike Hampton	1	0	0.82	3	3	0
Tim Hudson	1	0	0.82	3	3	0
John Patterson	1	1	0.86	3	3	0
Josh Beckett	3	1	1.00	4	4	1
Dontrelle Willis	3	0	1.13	3	3	2
Derek Lowe	1	1	1.27	4	4	1
Jake Peavy	2	0	1.31	3	3	0
Jas Marquis	2	0	1.33	3	3	0
Odalis Perez	3	0	2.04	3	3	0
A.J. Burnett	2	1	2.25	3	3	2
Mark Redman	1	1	2.33	3	3	0
Josh Fogg	1	1	2.45	3	3	0
Pedro Martinez	1	0	2.45	3	3	1
Al Leiter	0	1	2.55	3	3	0
Jon Leiber	4	0	2.73	4	4	0
Brad Halsey	1	0	2.81	3	2	0
Jason Schmidt	2	1	3.00	3	3	0
Carlos Zambrano	2	0	3.04	4	4	0
Adam Eaton	1	1	3.24	3	3	0
Brandon Webb	3	0	3.26	3	3	0
Jeff Suppan	1	2	3.38	3	3	0
Roy Oswalt	3	1	3.41	4	4	1
Andy Pettitte	0	1	3.44	3	3	0
Doug Davis	2	1	3.63	3	3	0

ProFile Roger Clemens

AGE: 42 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-4 WT: 235 YRS: 21

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS
'03	17	9	3.91	33	33
'04	18	4	2.98	33	33
'05	1	0	0.43	3	3

YR	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	211.2	199	99	92	190
'04	214.1	169	76	71	218
'05	21	12	1	1	26



SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HBP	BB	SO
0	0	21.0	12	1	1	0	2	26
0	0	20.1	14	3	1	1	2	20
0	0	22.0	17	2	2	0	5	5
0	0	22.0	16	2	2	1	5	17
0	0	21.0	12	2	2	0	4	17
1	0	27.0	15	6	3	0	10	30
2	0	24.0	14	3	3	0	2	14
1	0	28.1	20	7	4	2	8	17
0	0	20.2	16	3	3	1	4	26
0	0	20.1	17	4	3	1	4	15
0	0	17.2	11	4	4	0	5	10
0	0	24.0	19	8	6	0	5	14
0	0	19.1	15	6	5	0	3	9
0	0	18.1	17	9	5	0	6	14
0	0	22.0	8	6	6	0	4	39
0	0	17.2	13	5	5	2	7	11
0	0	29.2	30	11	11	0	2	9
0	0	16.0	18	7	7	1	1	11
0	0	18.0	14	7	7	1	8	21
0	0	26.2	19	9	9	0	9	22
0	0	16.2	18	10	10	0	5	13
0	0	19.1	18	7	7	1	8	12
0	0	18.2	24	9	9	0	7	6
0	0	29.0	21	11	11	1	7	21
0	0	18.1	21	7	7	0	5	11
0	0	17.1	17	8	8	1	8	14

American League | PITCHING

PLAYER	W	L	ERA	G	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	HBP	BB	SO
Rich Harden	2	0	0.44	3	3	0	0	0	20.1	14	1	1	2	6	21
Tim Wakefield	2	0	1.37	3	3	0	0	0	19.2	12	4	3	0	7	14
Pedro Astacio	1	1	1.64	3	3	0	0	0	22.0	17	4	4	0	3	15
Rodrigo Lopez	2	1	1.91	4	4	0	0	0	28.1	25	7	6	0	10	23
Joe Blanton	0	1	2.04	3	3	0	0	0	17.2	12	5	4	1	5	5
Matt Clement	2	0	2.13	4	4	0	0	0	25.1	26	7	6	2	11	23
Danny Haren	1	1	2.37	3	3	0	0	0	19.0	11	7	5	1	11	16
O. Hernandez	2	1	2.50	3	3	0	0	0	18.0	24	7	5	2	5	9
Ryan Franklin	1	2	2.51	5	3	1	0	0	28.2	16	8	8	0	6	5
Gustavo Chacin	3	0	1.42	3	3	0	0	0	19.0	13	3	3	1	4	10
Jon Garland	3	0	2.57	3	3	0	0	0	21.0	17	6	6	0	4	8
Bartolo Colon	3	1	2.60	4	4	0	0	0	27.2	23	8	8	0	8	20
Mark Buehrle	3	1	2.61	4	4	1	0	0	31.0	18	9	9	0	6	23
Carl Pavano	1	2	2.86	4	4	0	0	0	22.0	27	14	7	1	3	14
Jamie Moyer	3	0	3.00	4	4	0	0	0	24.0	26	9	8	1	7	18
Roy Halladay	3	0	3.30	4	4	1	0	0	30.0	25	11	11	1	4	21
Kenny Rogers	0	2	3.33	4	4	0	0	0	24.1	29	11	9	3	7	10
Bruce Chen	1	1	3.38	3	3	1	0	0	21.1	17	9	8	1	4	13
Freddy Garcia	1	1	3.43	3	3	0	0	0	21.0	18	8	8	0	7	12
David Wells	2	2	3.51	4	4	0	0	0	25.2	28	10	10	2	2	16
Jose Contreras	0	0	3.63	3	3	0	0	0	17.1	15	8	7	1	11	9
Jake Westbrook	0	4	3.81	4	4	2	0	0	26.0	19	14	11	1	8	11
Bronson Arroyo	1	0	3.86	3	3	0	0	0	18.2	20	8	8	0	6	8
Kevin Millwood	0	2	3.91	4	4	0	0	0	25.1	27	11	11	1	7	15
Jarrod Washburn	0	0	4.07	4	4	0	0	0	24.1	33	11	11	2	5	18
R. Hernandez	1	2	4.19	3	3	0	0	0	19.1	23	10	9	0	8	10
J. Bonderman	2	2	4.28	4	4	0	0	0	27.1	26	13	13	0	7	20

ProFile

Tim Wakefield

AGE: 38 BAT: R THROW: R HT: 6-2 WT: 210 YRS: 12

YR	W	L	ERA	G	GS
'03	11	7	4.09	35	33
'04	12	10	4.87	32	20
'05	2	0	1.37	3	3

YR	IP	H	R	ER	SO
'03	202.1	193	106	92	169
'04	188.1	197	121	102	116
'05	19.2	12	4	3	14



Nationals Archive

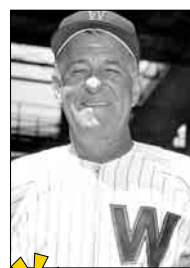
1924 | In the span of one week, the soon-to-be World Series champion Washington Nationals (their official name until 1955 when it was changed to the more popular Senators) ...

The Best and Worst Games of '24

... took part in the best- and worst-played games of the 1924 season.

On April 25, the great Walter Johnson proved that, at least occasionally, he was only human. The Big Train blew a 3-1 lead over the Philadelphia A's when Al Simmons smacked a three-run homer to left field in the sixth. Two more runs came across in the seventh, forcing Johnson to the showers early in a 6-5 loss.

They don't play games like the series finale with the A's anymore. In front of a jam-packed crowd of 20,000 on April 26, Philadelphia ace Paul Zahniser shut out Washington, 2-0, in a game in which neither team committed an error and which



Bucky Harris

The next day, Washington almost beat Boston but couldn't top the weather. Clearly fatiguing, Red Sox pitcher Alexander Ferguson

lasted only one hour, 25 minutes.

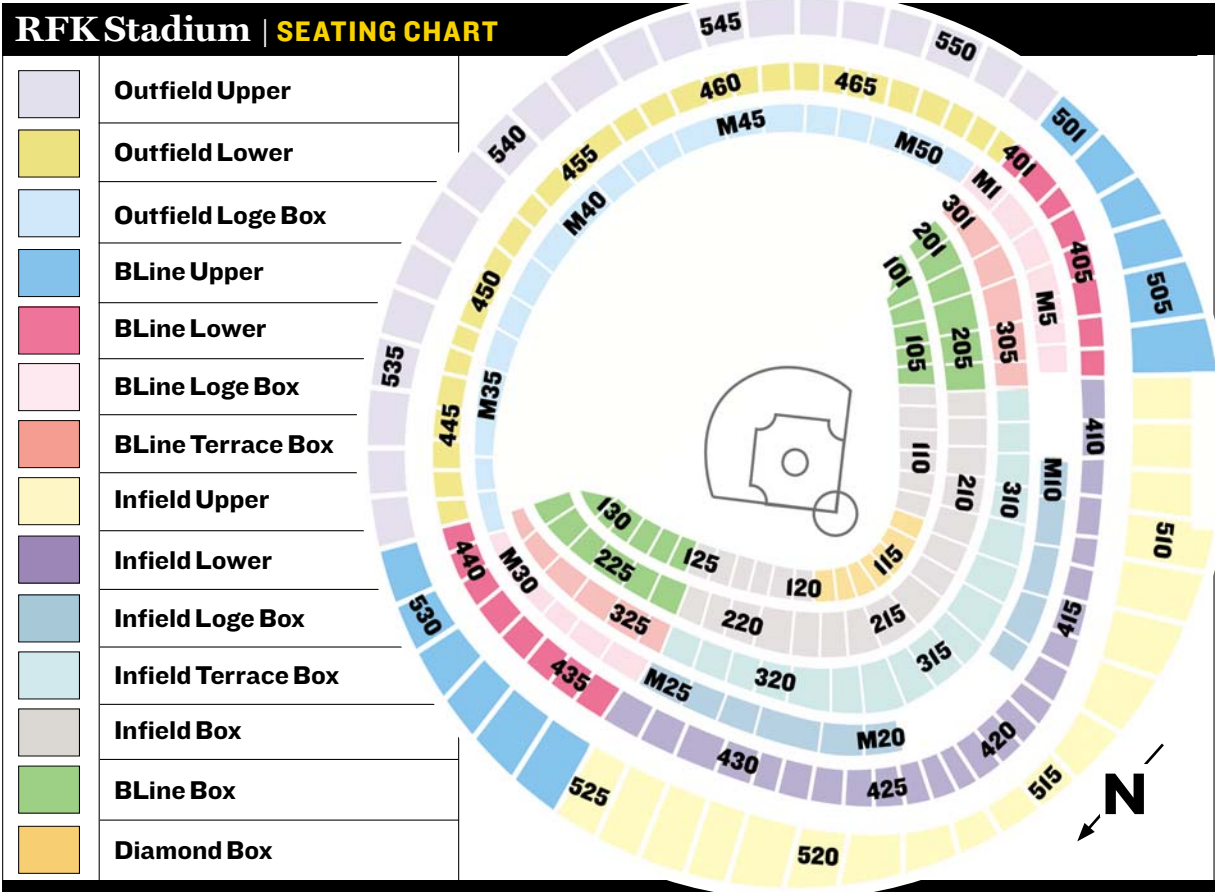
As if a shutout wasn't bad enough, the Nats suffered a new humiliation in the first game of a series against the Red Sox. Sam Rice's line drive to first turned into a triple play. But the Nats turned two double

found plenty of excuses to stall once he saw a storm approaching. Sure enough, it poured, delaying a Nationals' rally until after the storm. With the score knotted at 2 in the eighth, the game was ruled a tie.

The Nats would have killed for a tie in the ugly game 3 of the series, in which Washington gave up 15 walks in a 15-6 loss. Manager Bucky Harris used 18 players in a game that featured every play in baseball except for a home run and triple play.

The week ended with Johnson returning to form with a 3-2 victory over future Hall-of-Famer Waite Hoyt and the defending champion New York Yankees.

MLB STANDINGS											
TEAM		W	L	PCT	GB	HOME	ROAD	RS	RA	STRK	LIO
N.L. EAST	Florida	09	07	.563	--	6-5	3-2	77	44	Lost 1	6-4
	Washington	09	07	.563	--	4-3	5-4	67	78	Lost 1	6-4
	New York	08	08	.500	1	5-1	3-7	77	66	Won 1	7-3
	Philadelphia	08	08	.500	1	5-5	3-3	76	86	Won 1	5-5
	Atlanta	08	08	.500	1	3-3	5-5	53	55	Won 1	4-6
N.L. CENTRAL	St. Louis	09	05	.643	--	6-5	3-2	77	44	Lost 1	6-4
	Houston	08	07	.533	1.5	7-2	1-5	63	51	Won 3	4-6
	Cincinnati	08	07	.533	1.5	7-3	1-4	63	73	Lost 1	5-5
	Chicago Cubs	08	08	.500	2	3-3	5-5	76	68	Lost 1	5-5
	Milwaukee	05	10	.333	4.5	2-6	3-4	66	65	Lost 7	2-8
N.L. WEST	Pittsburgh	05	11	.313	5	1-6	4-5	47	89	Won 1	3-7
	L.A. Dodgers	12	03	.800	--	5-0	7-3	92	58	Lost 1	8-2
	San Diego	08	08	.500	4.5	5-3	3-5	75	67	Won 1	5-5
	Arizona	08	08	.500	4.5	6-3	2-5	72	88	Lost 1	5-5
	San Francisco	07	08	.467	5	5-3	2-5	76	79	Won 1	4-6
A.L. EAST	Colorado	04	11	.267	8	3-4	1-7	74	101	Lost 1	3-7
	Boston	10	06	.625	--	6-2	4-4	87	62	Won 2	8-2
	Baltimore	09	07	.563	1	5-5	4-2	82	85	Lost 2	6-4
	Toronto	09	08	.529	1.5	2-3	7-5	88	79	Lost 2	4-6
	New York	07	09	.438	3	4-4	3-5	89	96	Won 2	4-6
A.L. CENTRAL	Tampa Bay	06	10	.375	4	5-6	1-4	77	99	Won 1	3-7
	Chicago	12	04	.750	--	6-2	6-2	71	71	Won 4	8-2
	Minnesota	10	06	.625	2	6-2	4-4	77	66	Won 2	7-3
	Detroit	06	10	.375	6	3-5	3-3	91	79	Lost 3	3-7
	Cleveland	06	10	.375	6	2-4	4-6	62	68	Lost 3	3-7
A.L. WEST	Kansas City	05	11	.313	7	2-6	3-5	62	96	Lost 2	2-8
	L.A. Angels	09	07	.563	--	6-4	3-3	79	69	Won 2	6-4
	Seattle	08	08	.500	1	3-5	5-3	74	68	Lost 1	6-4
	Oakland	08	08	.500	1	3-3	5-5	61	65	Won 1	5-5
	Texas	08	09	.471	1.5	4-5	4-4	85	96	Lost 1	5-5



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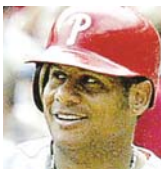


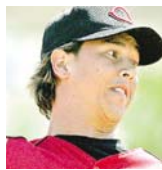
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American League HITTING		
RUNS BATTED IN	HOME RUNS	STOLEN BASES
 M. Tejada, BAL, 19 M. Ramirez, BOS, 17 B. Roberts, BAL, 17 C. Crawford, TB, 15 C. Everett, CWS, 15	 P. Konerko, CWS, 7 B. Roberts, BAL, 6 V. Guerrero, LAA, 5 M. Ramirez, BOS, 5 C. Everett, CWS, 5	 T. Hunter, MIN, 9 I. Suzuki, SEA, 7 J. Lugo, TB, 6 S. Podsednik, CWS, 6 B. Roberts, BAL, 6

American League PITCHING		
WINS	STRIKEOUTS	SAVES
 M. Buehrle, CWS, 3 G. Chacin, TOR, 3 B. Colon, LAA, 3 J. Garland, CWS, 3 R. Halladay, TOR, 3	 J. Santana, MIN, 37 R. Johnson, NYY, 27 M. Buehrle, CWS, 23 M. Clement, BOS, 23 R. Lopez, BAL, 23	 F. Cordero, TEX, 7 E. Guardado, SEA, 5 J. Nathan, MIN, 5 S. Takatsu, CWS, 5 M. Batista, TOR, 4

National League HITTING		
RUNS BATTED IN	HOME RUNS	STOLEN BASES
 P. Burrell, PHI, 20 Encarnacion, FLA, 17 D. Lee, CHC, 17 M. Cabrera, FLA, 15 M. Bradley, LAD, 14	 M. Bradley, LAD, 5 P. Burrell, PHI, 5 J. Edmonds, STL, 5 T. Glaus, ARI, 5 J. Guillen, WAS, 5	 B. Abreu, PHI, 6 J. Lane, HOU, 5 M. Loretta, SD, 5 W. Taveras, HOU, 5 O. Vizquel, SF, 5

National League PITCHING		
WINS	STRIKEOUTS	SAVES
 J. Lieber, PHI, 4 J. Beckett, FLA, 3 C. Carpenter, STL, 3 R. Oswalt, HOU, 3 O. Perez, LAD, 3	 P. Martinez, NYM, 38 J. Beckett, FLA, 30 J. Smoltz, ATL, 29 R. Clemens, HOU, 26 J. Peavy, SD, 26	 D. Graves, CIN, 6 B. Lyon, ARI, 6 Isringhausen, STL, 5 D. Kolb, ATL, 5 J. Mesa, PIT, 5

If the House Is Rockin' ...

As Nationals fans enjoy all things new this season, it's comforting to know at last one thing remains the same: RFK Stadium.

It's still old. It's still dingy. And it still feels like it's going to fall apart when a game gets good. Ain't it grand?

RFK has hosted plenty of concerts and D.C. United games since the Redskins moved to Landover in 1997, but it hasn't been this alive since the first time Joe Gibbs was in town.

It started on April 14 when the sold-out stadium started shaking as Vinny Castilla and Livan Hernandez led the Nats to victory over the Diamondbacks in their home opener.

It hasn't stopped rocking since. Cynics might point to the shaking as the main reason D.C. needs a new stadium. Washingtonians, on the other hand, point to the rocking generated by excited fans as what makes RFK so special.

Sure, some seats are obstructed, the hot dogs aren't always hot, and there's only one scoreboard. But there's something intangible in all the stadium's cracks and creaks. It's called character.

About 45 minutes north sits what is arguably the ideal stadium — Oriole Park at Camden Yards. The park holds more than 40,000 fans (many of them disguised as empty seats this year), has great food by ballpark standards, and, as they say, there isn't a bad seat in the house.

Camden Yards was designed to replicate the past — it was made to look and feel old.

RFK doesn't need any tricks to



do either. It is old. It feels old.

That's what happens to a venue when it's hosted as many memorable moments as RFK has — from the brawl to end the Senators' 1971 season to that Redskins-Falcons playoff game in 1992 when fans threw their seat cushions onto the field to celebrate victory over "Neon" Deion Sanders.

The Redskins left a few years later, but the ghosts stayed behind. Every time the seats shake, they shake loose memories of all those Washington-Dallas games.

By the time a new stadium is completed, a new tradition of baseball will have taken its place alongside the Redskins and Senators, and it will be sad to say goodbye to RFK again.

But, of course, a new stadium is needed to secure the Nationals' economic stability — and hopefully to anchor the revitalization of the Anacostia Waterfront. No doubt the new park will have better food and no obstructed views.

But let's hope the seats rock too, even if only a little bit, during a seventh-inning rally. **MATT SWENSON**

Nationals Agenda

2005 SCHEDULE

- Home Games Shaded
- 76th Annual All Star Game, July 12 at Comerica Park, Detroit

May						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NYM	LAD	LAD	LAD	SF	SF	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SF	AZ	AZ	AZ	CHC	CHC	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
CHC	MIL	MIL	MIL	MIL	TOR	TOR
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
TOR	CIN	CIN	CIN	STL	STL	
29	30	31				
STL	ATL	ATL				

June						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	3	4
			ATL	ATL	FLA	FLA
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
FLA		OAK	OAK	OAK	SEA	SEA
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
SEA	LAA	LAA	LAA	TEX	TEX	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
TEX	PIT	PIT	PIT	TOR	TOR	
26	27	28	29	30		
TOR		PIT	PIT	PIT		

April						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	PHI		PHI	PHI	FLA	FLA
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
FLA	ATL	ATL	ATL	AZ		AZ
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
AZ	FLA	FLA	ATL	ATL	NYM	NYM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NYM	PHI	PHI	PHI		NYM	NYM

July						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
					CHC	CHC
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
CHC	NYM	NYM	NYM	NYM	PHI	PHI
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
PHI				MIL	MIL	MIL
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
MIL	COL	COL	COL	HOU	HOU	HOU
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
HOU		ATL	ATL	ATL	FLA	FLA
31	FLA					

August						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		LAD	LAD	LAD	SD	SD
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
SD		HOU	HOU	HOU	COL	COL
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
COL	PHI	PHI	PHI	PHI	NYM	NYM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
NYM		CIN	CIN	CIN	STL	STL
28	29	30	31			
STL	ATL	ATL	ATL			

September						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
				ATL	PHI	PHI
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PHI	FLA	FLA	FLA	FLA	ATL	ATL
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ATL		NYM	NYM	NYM	SD	SD
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
SD		SF	SF	SF	NYM	NYM
25	26	27	28	29	30	
NYM	FLA	FLA	FLA		PHI	

October						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
						PHI
2						
PHI						

 Schedule subject to change

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New York (JFK)
New York (Stewart)
New York (White Plains)
Newark, NJ
Norfolk, VA
Orlando, FL
Pittsburgh, PA
Portland, ME
Providence, RI
Raleigh-Durham, NC
Rochester, NY
Savannah, GA
Syracuse, NY
Tampa, FL
West Palm Beach, FL